

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC, by
Members of the Medical Profession,
in New York.

New-York, 1858.

[For Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton.]

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NEW-YORK CITY, *June 24th*, 1858.

On the 24th of June, a meeting of Medical Gentlemen, interested in raising a national testimonial for the benefit of the discoverer of Anæsthesia, was held at the residence of Dr. WILLARD PARKER.

The hour for organization having arrived, Dr. PARKER addressed the meeting, explained its objects, and proposed for President Dr. JOSEPH M. SMITH; which nomination, having been seconded, was voted upon, and carried. Dr. GURDON BUCK was then elected Corresponding Secretary, and Drs. BIBBINS and THOMAS Recording Secretaries.

The meeting being now duly organized, the business of the evening was called for, and proceeded in this wise:—

1st.—Dr. JOHN WATSON read a list of the names of some of the most prominent, benevolent and wealthy of the citizens of New-York, and proposed that each gentleman present should charge himself with visiting such of them as he had most influence with, and raising as large subscriptions as possible to head the list. This was acted upon; a list of 100 names was read, and the duty of canvassing them assumed by various gentlemen composing the meeting.

2d.—Dr. BUCK moved that a committee of medical men be appointed to confer with gentlemen out of the profession as to the most efficient means for accomplishing the end in view. This was seconded by Dr. PARKER, and carried. On the Committee, the President then appointed Drs. JOHN W. FRANCIS, VALENTINE MOTT, JAMES R. WOOD, WILLARD PARKER, JAMES MINOR, GURDON BUCK, JOHN WATSON, and MARION SIMS; and upon motion of Dr. SAYRE, the President was added to it. This committee, it

was agreed, should meet at the house of Dr. PARKER at an early date.

3d.—It was then moved by Dr. PARKER, that a committee of one selected from the Medical Board of each public charity of the city and its vicinity, should be appointed to wait upon the Boards directing the various institutions, and solicit donations in behalf of the object which has called us together this evening. This motion was seconded by Dr. WATSON, and carried. The following appointments were then made by the chair:—

<i>New-York Hospital,</i>	Dr. GURDON BUCK.
<i>Bellvue</i> “	“ JAS. R. WOOD.
<i>Emigrants’</i> “	“ J. M. CARNOCHAN.
<i>St. Vincent’s</i> “	“ WM. H. VAN BUREN.
<i>St. Luke’s</i> “	“ BENJ. OGDEN.
<i>Jews’</i> “	“ J. MOSES.
<i>Women’s</i> “	“ J. M. SIMS.
<i>Child’s</i> “	“ G. T. ELLIOT, JR.
<i>Quarantine</i> “	“ ELISHA HARRIS.
<i>New-York Lying-in-Asylum,</i>	“ T. F. COCK.
<i>Brooklyn City Hospital,</i>	“ HUTCHINSON.
<i>Long Island College Hospital,</i>	“ AYRES.
<i>Colored Home</i> “	“ FITCH.
<i>New-York Eye Infirmary,</i>	“ DUBOIS.
<i>New-York Ophthalmic Hospital,</i>	“ GARRISH.

* * * * *

4th.—It was moved by Dr. WATSON, that the minutes of this meeting be transmitted to Dr. WM. T. G. MORTON by the Secretary, which was carried.

No further business appearing, the meeting then adjourned.

JOSEPH. M. SMITH, M. D., *President.*

GURDON BUCK, M. D., *Cor. Sec’y.*

T. GAILLARD THOMAS, M. D., *Rec. Sec’y.*

NEW-YORK CITY, 1858.

The Medical Profession have, from the earliest ages, felt the need of some safe and efficient agent for annulling pain.

The ordinary anodynes, long in use, have never supplied this deficiency, and the various new agents which, within the past sixty or eighty years, have been substituted for these, have, until recently, proved either too dangerous or too unreliable to be employed in general practice.

Wine and strong alcoholic drinks, given in such quantity as to induce intoxication, were occasionally employed, even before the commencement of the present century, for rendering persons insensible to the pain of surgical operations. With the same end in view, some Surgeons, addressing the intellect, were in the habit of exciting sudden fear, alarm, or astonishment, to divert the attention of their patients. Others, again, resorted to the uncertain and inexplicable influence of mesmerism. Still more recently, the nitrous oxide gas, administered by inhalation, has, as originally suggested by SIR HUMPHREY DAVY, been employed for producing temporary loss of consciousness. But this, too, after a fair trial, has

failed, and the hopes founded upon it have proved nugatory and delusive. So that up to this point, the want of a reliable agent for rendering the human body insensible to pain—a want so long felt, and to obviate which so many fruitless efforts had been made—was still to be supplied. That want, however, has since been fully met.

The first great triumph of placing in the hands of the Profession an agent capable of rendering the patient safely, and, at will, utterly insensible to the stroke of the Surgeon's knife, was in detecting and establishing by experiment the anæsthetic powers of Sulphuric Ether. For this discovery the world is indebted to Dr. WM. T. G. MORTON, of Boston.

Whatever may have been the steps preliminary to this remarkable discovery, Dr. MORTON'S claim to it is established beyond all controversy, and his merit in this respect, with those who have taken the trouble to inform themselves on the subject, can be no longer a question of dispute.

Nor can the importance of his early investigations and experiments, under the guidance of Providence, in reference to the properties and uses of Ether, be, at the present day, too highly estimated. The introduction of this agent as an anæsthetic, and of the various other agents of the same class, as Chloroform, Amyline, and the like, to which this directly led, has done more for the mitigation of human suffering than any other discovery, with the exception, perhaps, of Vaccination, for which the

world is indebted to Medical science in either ancient or modern times.

The benefit derived from these newly discovered agents is not confined to the hardier procedures of operative surgery. They are now in hourly requisition in every quarter of the civilized world for suspending all sense of suffering during the severest throes of child-birth, for arresting convulsions, for relaxing spasms, for suspending volition and overcoming muscular resistance during the reduction of fractures and dislocations, for allaying restlessness, wakefulness, and morbid excitability; even for assuaging the pangs of approaching dissolution, not to speak of the almost innumerable minor uses to which they are applied, as well in the investigation as in the treatment of disease.

In view of these advantages from the use of anæsthetics, we feel that Dr. MORTON—the first to demonstrate their safety and efficiency, and to establish them in general practice—has conferred a boon upon humanity as unperishable as it is important, and one of such a character as to entitle him to rank among the benefactors of mankind.

As members of the Medical Profession in the city of New-York, and as Physicians and Surgeons to the various Hospitals and Infirmarys in this city, and its vicinity, we therefore rejoice to learn that a movement has been commenced by our professional brethren and other gentlemen of Boston, to establish a National Testimonial, by voluntary subscrip-

tion, for the benefit of Dr. MORTON. In this movement, after full deliberation and consultation among ourselves, we are ready to participate in accordance with the plan of those who originated it, which plan is set forth by the gentlemen of Boston in the following terms:—

“We propose that a National Subscription
“be instituted, the avails of which shall be
“paid into the hands of THOMAS B. CURTIS
“and CHARLES H. MILLS, Esq’s., (of Boston,) as
“Trustees, to be held, appropriated, and in-
“vested upon such trusts, and for such uses,
“for the benefit of Dr. MORTON, as the Trustees
“may determine.

“The following gentlemen, as Bankers, (re-
“siding in other cities,) have agreed to receive
“for the Trustees any sums paid to them for
“the purpose above-mentioned: James Brown,
“of New-York; W. E. Bowen, of Philadelphia;
“W. K. Graham, of Baltimore; James Adger,
“of Charleston; Samuel Nicholson & Co., of
“New Orleans.”

From the appeal of the gentlemen who have proposed this plan, we also ascertain that the movement in Boston, though but just commenced, has met with liberal encouragement. Already in their list we find the following subscriptions:—

AMOS A. LAWRENCE, One Thousand Dollars.

Mass. Gen. Hospital, One Thousand Dollars.

JOHN P. CUSHING, *Five Hundred Dollars.*

JOHN GARDNER, *Two Hundred Dollars.*

Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, *Two Hundred Dollars.*

Thomas B. Curtis, N. I. Bowditch, Charles H. Mills, John J. May. Samuel A. Elliot, David Sears, Ed. Wigglesworth, Jas. Bowdoin Bradlee, Josiah Bradlee, James Lawrence, J. A. Lowell, Thomas Lee, J. M. Forbes, each *One Hundred Dollars*.

Moses Grant, William Ropes, Henry W. Longfellow, Christopher C. Chadwick, Wm. Powell Perkins, Samuel A. Appleton, Henry Timmins, Charles Amory, W. S. Bullard, Wm. H. Prescott, each *Fifty Dollars*.

Under Governments more arbitrary and restrictive than our own, but more capable of meeting the claims of science, the awards of merit are not usually left, as with us, to the bounty of private individuals. Discoveries and improvements of infinitely less importance to science or humanity than that for which we are indebted to Dr. MORTON, are at the Courts of Europe promptly met by national honors and emoluments.

In our own country, it is true, the National Government, after carefully investigating Dr. MORTON's claims, has acknowledged the benefit he has conferred upon it, but has nevertheless failed, as yet, to supply the recompense.

What the Government in this respect has failed to do, it is to be hoped, for the credit of the American name, and from the noble individual examples already set, that the discerning and liberal people of the United States will not leave entirely unaccomplished.

With these remarks we have the honor of recommending Dr. MORTON's claims for remu-

neration to the consideration of our fellow-citizens, and of soliciting their subscriptions in behalf of the fund which it is proposed to raise for his benefit.

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We, the Subscribers, having perused the foregoing Address to the Public, and concurring in its object. hereby agree to pay to JAMES BROWN, of New-York, to be by him paid over to THOMAS B. CURTIS and CHARLES H. MILLS, Esquires, of Boston, as Trustees, the sums respectively set against our names, to be held, invested, or appropriated, for the benefit of DR. MORTON, in such manner as the said Trustees may determine to be expedient.

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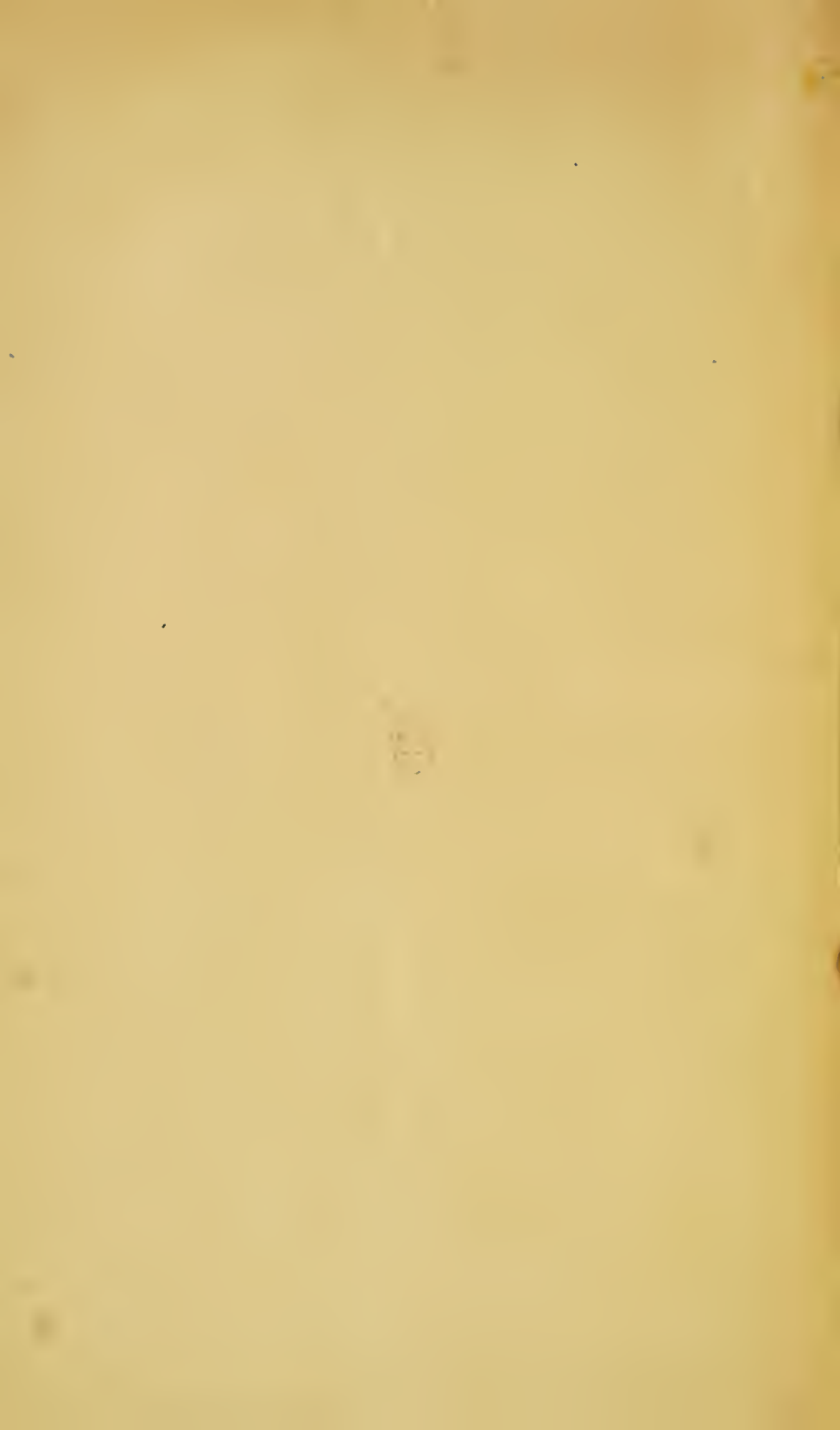
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